

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

January 17, 2012, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Conference Room 5, Public Safety Facility, Santa Monica, CA

Attendance:

Richard Bloom

Liz Crosson

Fran Diamond

Mike Gin (via phone)

Mark Gold (chair)

Mark Pestrella (via phone)

Absent:

Senator Pavley

Guests:

Dean Kubani, Sarah Sikich

Staff Present:

Shelley Luce, Scott Valor, Guangyu Wang

Note: Agenda Items are listed in the order in which they were taken up.

Agenda Item 1. Public Comment

None

Agenda Item 2. Informational Items

- a. Consideration of Approval of November 17, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Approved without objection (M: Diamond, S: Crosson)

- b. Order of Agenda

Unchanged

- c. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Shelley Luce announced that we will have a Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) meeting on February 22 to give feedback on the Bay Restoration Plan and to share a draft of the 2013 Work Plan. We will get input from the WAC, bring to the EC, then ultimately to the Governing Board. The meeting will take place at the Dockweiler Youth Facility.

Luce discussed the Coastal Conservancy meeting this Thursday at the Baldwin Hills overlook center to consider approval of \$6.25 million for Ballona Wetlands Ecological Restoration planning, including \$240,000 for the SMBRF, for planning, design, and engineering (including CEQA/NEPA work). Luce noted letters of support from Lieu, Pavley, Butler, and Knabe, Port of LA, LA Cty FCD, and various environmental groups. The Science Advisory Committee will then meet next Monday to discuss the new version of the proposed design.

Luce provided information on the Annenberg Foundation's interest in funding an interpretive center on Area C of Ballona. Luce noted that SMBRC is working with Fish & Game and the Coastal Conservancy on this issue. AF legal staff drafted an MOU that will be the basis of a January 24 meeting. The MOU would lay out what the parties can agree to up to this point, with future goals. Luce noted that there are two issues that need to be

considered—a desire for an animal adoption center and a limit on the fill to be placed on Area C. Gin noted that this is similar to the project that AF attempted on the Palos Verdes peninsula. Luce noted that the plan would change the entrance and parking to Area C rather than the Playa del Rey area, which was problematic. The project would take about an acre footprint on the 60 acre site. Gin noted that we should ensure this doesn't stray from the SMBRC core mission. He also noted that we should check in with the Knabe and Ridley-Thomas offices.

Luce mentioned that we are developing our annual report and would like to release it at the February meeting. The budget portion will be forwarded in advance for input.

Finally, Luce discussed the issue that the Malibu Surfing Association has raised regarding the Malibu Lagoon berm breach. They want a breach to the west and they feel that the SMBRC is a good forum to begin this discussion. They would like an official forum for this issue. EC members raised concern about a specific focus at this point. Gold noted a historic interest in the topic. However, given the restoration issues that involve the lagoon at this point, it may not be the best time for the issue. EC members believe that the lagoon restoration opponents won't allow the issues to be separated. EC members suggested waiting until after the appeals process is over and the restoration has begun (scheduled for June). Gold suggested a fate and transport study first and to consider this in October, particularly if this would require a major change in berm management. Bloom suggested talking with Coastal Commission staff as well.

Agenda Item 3. Executive Committee Business

- a. Work Plan Discussion—Luce briefly presented on the new work plan during her ED report, above.
- b. Establish Governing Board Agenda for February

Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs

Valor briefly explained. Placed on the GB agenda without objection (M: Diamond, S: Bloom)

Appointment of TAC Members

Luce addressed new members and those who are stepping down. She noted that the TAC is recommending John Dorsey and Dr. Terrie Hogue, who worked on the water budget for the Ballona Watershed.

Presentation of Annual Report

Luce will handle this item at the Governing Board meeting.

- c. Member Comments and Announcements Regarding Matters not on the Agenda

Gold noted that he has resigned from Heal the Bay. Sarah Sikich will represent the organization at this point.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. without objection.